

HOUSE BILL 2477  
By Bowers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, and to enact the "Student Job Skills Act of 1996".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Student Job Skills Development Act of 1996".

SECTION 2. In order to teach disadvantaged high school students the skills necessary to gain significant employment and perform well in the workplace, to decrease absenteeism and increase motivation and self-esteem, and to improve academic, leadership and interpersonal skills, the department of education is hereby authorized to establish a job skills development program.

SECTION 3. The goals of the program shall be to assist students to attain competency in the following six (6) areas:

(1) Career Development Competency includes the development of awareness on the part of the student of individual special aptitudes, abilities, interests, life goals and desired life styles. Included in the curriculum would be information about the world of work, various occupations and career paths.

(2) Job Attainment Competency includes those skills that are important to job development and placement.

(3) Job Survival Competency includes the abilities required for success-on-the-job, such as appropriate dress, behavior, and protocol.

(4) Basic Competency increases written and verbal communication and comprehension, and enhances the ability to perform mathematical computation.

(5) Leadership and Self Development Competency enables an individual to function effectively in group projects on the job or in an organizational context.

(6) Personal Skills Competency encourages awareness of personal decisions, the need for assuming responsibility for one's actions and decisions and how those decisions affect future employment potential and life satisfaction.

SECTION 4. In order to develop the competencies, each program shall have at least one (1) career development specialist. The specialist's job will be to assess the level of competency at which the student is operating and the level at which the student should be operating. The specialist then will ascertain the student's goals and develop a curriculum that is specially tailored to the needs and abilities of that student.

SECTION 5. Each specialist is limited to not more than forty (40) students. The specialist is responsible for not less than nine (9) months of follow-up for each student. The specialist is personally accountable for the student's attendance at school, graduation, placement in a quality job and retention of a quality job.

SECTION 6. The program specialists shall seek to find employers who will assist in the work-based learning component of the program. The training of the various components will be done by vocational teachers, employers and counselors.

SECTION 7. The program shall be open to all eleventh and twelfth grade high school students who, according to the specialist, meet at least two (2) of the following criteria:

- (1) Is behind model grade by one (1) to two (2) years;
- (2) Has failed all or part of the state proficiency examination;
- (3) Has a record of suspensions, absenteeism, or low academic performance;
- (4) Is economically disadvantaged;
- (5) Has a parent who did not graduate from high school;
- (6) Has a dependent child;

- (7) Is from a single-parent household;
- (8) Has dropped out of school previously;
- (9) Lacks self esteem or motivation; or
- (10) Has a close friend who dropped out or does not plan to graduate.

SECTION 8. The program shall consist of one hundred eighty (180) hours per year. A student who qualifies for participation is entitled to school credit for the course.

SECTION 9. The budget for this program shall not exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from all sources.

SECTION 10. In accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5, the department of education shall promulgate such rules as may be necessary to implement and administer the provisions of this act in an efficient and effective manner.

SECTION 11. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.